Completion of Maharashtra Irrigation Projects

*390. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major and medium irrigation proejcts in Maharashtra which have so far been completed alongwith those which still remain incomplete, as on 30th September, 1995;

(b) the reasons for some of the projects in the State remaining incomplete; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure the timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) As on 30th Sept., 1995, 19 Major and 155 Medium Irrigation Projects have been completed in Maharashtra since the start of the Plan period, 33 Major and 45 Medium Irrigation Projects remain to be completed.

(b) The main reason for delay in completion of projects, in addition to technical factors and difficulties in acquisition of land, is inadequate provision of funds.

(c) Steps taken by the Union Government for expeditious completion of the projects so as to derive early benefits are to persuade the States to give priority to those projects which have made substantial progress, earmarking of outlays by the Planning Commission for important projects intensive monitoring of important projects by Central Water Commission and the States, setting up of cost control cells in the States, etc.

Use of High Yielding Varieties of Seeds and Chemical Fertilizers

*391. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of high yielding varieties of seeds and chemical fertilisers has resulted in increase in agricultural production of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the increase in the population of the country at the rate of 2% has upset all the increase in production; and

(c) if so, the steps under consideration of Government to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Despite increase in population by about 2.1% per annum, the increased production of foodgrains over the years has resulted in increase in per capita availability/consumption of foodgrains.

(c) It has been the endeavour of the Government to increase the foodgrain production at a rate higher than the rate of increase in population to meet the increasing demand due to increase in population and per capita income. The Government is implementing various foodgrain production oriented programmes to raise and sustain the growth of foodgrains production in the country and to improve its overall per capita availability.

कृषि उपज के अस्थिर मूल्य

*392. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार कृषि उपज के अस्थिर मूल्यों से किसानों का संरक्षण करने हेतु क्या उपाय कर रही है;

(ख) क्या किसानों को इन उपायों से पूर्ण संरक्षण प्राप्त हो रहा है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और क्या